



# Seattle Police

## "Thank an Employee"

### Commendation

Name

Comments

To provide you with these monthly commendations in a timely manner, please note that some may be redacted and paraphrased appropriately, and/or transcribed exactly as found in its original format, complete with any erroneous spelling. Specific details about incident numbers, complainants or victims from the incident are also removed from the commendation where appropriate.

Employee(s)

June 2019

Nohemi Gardea #7289	<i>I would like to commend PEO Gardea in her assistance today with me and a traffic officer. I was the first person to arrive to the scene of a traffic accident involving a pregnant woman, a one-year old child, and a few other passengers. There was a strong language barrier because the driver of one of the vehicles could only speak Spanish, and he was clearly in distress. I called PEO Gardea to see if she could assist the traffic officer and I in communicating to the driver, so he knew what was going on and could see what he needed. She was more than happy to help and assisted us by translating between the driver and us so we all could communicate and make the situation better.</i>
Officer Name Not Provided	<i>Three officers responded to a call about a strange noise this morning. They showed up almost immediately and checked things out, resolving the mystery quickly and efficiently (it was an odd one). The officers were notably professional and kindly answered a related question before leaving. We have always had positive experiences with Seattle Police in this household (thank you), and very much appreciated their help and time today.</i>
Officer Name Not Provided	<i>I live in Washington Terrace apartments, a SHAG building. I have noticed increased police presence and I wanted to thank the SPD for doing this. As a matter of fact, I would like to thank all officers working in Seattle. I appreciate what you do and am grateful to you. Thank you for your service.</i>
Officer Name Not Provided	<i>Great job handling my son during his issue. He is currently recovering in the hospital. Thank you officers</i>
Keith Tisdale #8560	<i>I want to thank Officer Tisdale. He came to my place to take a police report after someone attempted to break into our condo complex. He listened to everything I had to say and let me vent my frustration and fear about the increase in people attempting to break into our place and trespassing onto our property at night over the past several months. He remembered coming to our place before for another incident.. I felt like he genuinely cared and gave me confidence to know it's okay to call the police when things happen as opposed to just giving up and not reporting incidents. He suggested I call after he left to have our address added to emphasis patrol. I had no idea that was even possible. I did call and I can see on our security video clips when police come by at night as part of their drive bys..I really have appreciated it! We have not had any incidents since that night..I think the emphasis patrols have helped. It was a really good experience talking to him. I am so glad I followed thru on filing the report. It was worth it. I have been wanting to thank him but didn't know how to go about it until I found this form on line. Thank you Officer Tisdale and the North Precinct being there to protect us. I may have the date when he came out off by a couple days.</i>

---

**Stephen Laughlin #7733** *I was visiting Portland for the weekend and managed to end up at a bar late that night. As the bar was closing down a male was pushed during an altercation and hit his head on a concrete pylon outside the bar and began bleeding severely. Officer Laughlin had very instinctual and quick reaction to get to the patient and apply pressure to the wound to slow/stop the bleeding even in the midst of a potential fight breaking out all around him. He also convinced a very agitated patient to stop moving and to allow him to continue to hold pressure on his head during this time until the medics arrived and took over. Him along with a couple of his first responder friends kept a good perimeter and helped avoid any fights from breaking out. I believe solely that police never get the credit that they deserve and I fully believe that what Officer Laughlin did this night may have saved this victims life based off the blood loss that I witnessed, both on the ground and covering Officer Laughlin's arms and shirt. I would love to request that Officer Laughlin be considered for any potential awards that you may deem appropriate of such a selfless reaction in a hostile environment. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I'm glad to know such a honorable wearer of the badge.*

---

**Thomas Heller #7427** *We were in a car accident - another car blew through a stop sign, and the officer on duty Officer Heller just really helped us with the details. We were all very shaken up and he got the other person's insurance info for us, and gave us the incident card so we knew how to follow up. Just allowed us to feel, and not worry about the details. I am so grateful for that because I have no idea the other car's insurance info or license plate. So, Officer Heller handled details that we were not able to ourselves. Thank you for doing the little things!*

---

**Jeffrey To #8467**  
**Henry Vega #8602** *A woman and her 3-year-old child were checking out at the register when she inadvertently left her wallet on the check register counter then exited the store. A woman behind her saw the wallet, picket it up and hid it inside a grocery bag. She then exited the store without any effort to return the wallet to the owner or store staff. This Safeway has an excellent camera system that recorded the theft in its entirety. The initial reporting officer was able to obtain a still image of the suspect from the camera system. Officer To and Vega agreed to follow-up on this theft. Over the several days following the theft, they were able to identify the female theft suspect's male companion. They continued investigating and through interviews of the male's family members were able to positively identify the female suspect. Within a day after identifying the female suspect, the officers were on routine patrol in the area when they observed a person matching the description of the female suspect. They contacted her, verified her identity, and gained her consent to enter her apartment and retrieve both the stolen wallet and a cellular phone that had been stored inside. Officer To and Vega should be commended not only for their investigative effort but for their observant patrol that resulted in this arrest. This is an excellent example of great patrol oriented police work.*

---

**Stephanie Marks #6621**  
**Glenn Osburn #6715** *On 5/26/19, Officers Marks and Osburn responded to investigate a missing elderly person. The woman was suffering from the early stages of dementia and had last been seen approximately 8 hours prior to their arrival. The officers did a thorough investigation, including getting photos of the woman, and requested a supervisor to initiate a Silver Alert. They did an extensive area check, including responding to the North Precinct area when Metro stated that they may have seen her there. Officer Marks and Osburn completed the new Silver Alert form as well as the new missing person report in Mark43. The woman was located later in Bothell, undoubtedly assisted by the notification of the Silver Alert that they completed. Officers Marks and Osburn did an outstanding job, and went above and beyond the required response to ensure that the elderly women was located.*

---

<b>Clayton Agate #6655</b> <b>Terry Bailey #6848</b>	<i>Just wanted to say that Detectives Agate and Bailey went above and beyond by providing excellent intelligence to include photos and videos of the warrant location in Everett tonight. Their efforts greatly enhanced the safety of the SWAT team during the warrant service. The team spoke very highly of the detectives' efforts during our debrief. Please pass on our thanks to them.</i>
<b>Andrew Zwaschka #6810</b>	<i>I want to thank Sgt. Zwaschka for coming to last night's meeting of the South Seattle Crime Prevention Council. This is the second time I have had the pleasure of attending a meeting with him, (the first was the African American Advisory Council), and both times I was impressed with his ability to explain the work of the Gang Unit and to communicate the importance that SPD places upon the investigation of gun crimes. Please pass my appreciation on the Sgt. Zwaschka, and thank you again for asking him to come to the meeting.</i>
<b>Employee Name Not Provided</b>	<i>I called in for a non-emergency burglary police report that we needed to file on an apartment building on behalf of the property management that I work for. Despite the wait being incredibly long (6+ hours) , I am so appreciative of multiple follow-up calls throughout the wait and I know it can't be easy making those calls. Without the follow-up and a very nice person on the other end, it would have made the wait all the more trying. I so appreciate the follow-up and awesome personality/frequent calls. Thank you and I hope that the patrol officer will be here soon for the report.</i>
<b>Alfred Warner #6162</b>	<i>My wife and I felt he was a great guy. He represents the SPD so well. We enjoyed a great conversation with him as he was leading a team doing "soft contacts". Very personable, well spoken, and friendly. Keep safe. Thanks for serving.</i>
<b>Garrett Follette #8487</b>	<i>Officer Follette and the many officers that helped in our situation yesterday were quite helpful and kind in a very stressful situation for our office. The department's website and instruction to guide people that need assistance worked well and was very helpful. Thanks to the Seattle PD!! Many thanks for the dedicated hard work! Thanks Very Much!</i>
<b>Officer Name Not Provided</b>	<i>I stopped on the shoulder right past the tunnel to use my phone to alert the police or the Seattle Animal Shelter that there was a dog on the far right side of the tunnel laying on its side and wagging its tail. Hence, I knew it was alive. As it happens, I had stopped behind a Seattle Police SUV that appeared to be on a routine traffic stop. One of the officers came over to my car and asked me what was wrong. I was crying because I was so nervous and worried about the dog. My hands were shaking, and the Animal Shelter was not picking up. The officer was very calming, and I told him that the dog in the tunnel needed help. He assured me that he and his partner would turn around immediately to go and check on the dog. I was so thankful. I was late for work at the hospital, and I was not going to anything until I was assured that the dog was going to be taken care of. I don't know if the dog made it, but I know the officers did everything in their power to help one our canine friends out. I would like to thank the officers, and if they any information about the dog, I would like to know more. Very Appreciative</i>

<b>Benjamin Coomer #8443</b> <b>Robert McClelland #8563</b>	<p><i>The officers she would like to commend are Officers Benjamin Coomer #8443 and Robert McClelland #8563 for their incredibly sensitive, kind and very warm encounter with them as police officers. Details are as follows: Officers were performing wellness checks on this community member at the request of one of her family members. First contact: Saturday, 6/8 during the afternoon, around 4pm. One of her first experiences with officers in wellness checks. She described her prior experiences with police officers as "macho" and condescending. Officers Coomer and McClelland were not that, instead they were incredibly sensitive and kind. They listened to what she had to say, and she noted that she felt very comfortable in their presence. Second contact: Monday, 6/10 during the afternoon time as well. Officers arrived and waved before coming into her yard. Officers met her family (her son) and asked if they could do anything for them. She had jokingly asked for a chai tea latte. Officers left and returned to her house about 15 minutes later, providing her with the beverage that she asked for. She emphasized that these officers went above and beyond, stating that "I hope their supervisors are going to see this." She also added that her son stated "why can't there be more of these guys patrolling the streets?" In all, a very warm encounter.</i></p>
<b>Walker Dickson #7288</b>	<p><i>Officer Dickson arrived at my building with fellow officers to respond to a menacing man who had been openly exposing himself outside my window. I didn't realize how shocked and terrified I was at the time, so I appreciated his professionalism in asking me to describe the situation and the fact that I was able to stay out of view while identifying the perpetrator. Overall, I have only had positive experiences with the SPD and I am very grateful this was another.</i></p>
<b>Officer Name Not Provided</b>	<p><i>One of your officers brought someone into the ER and was completely respectful of the guy in custody. As soon as the officer took off the cuffs to release him, the guy stood up and spit in the officers face before trying to fight with hospital staff. Your officer showed more restraint and composure than any human being should be able to muster. At no point did the officer do anything retaliatory or even raise his voice. I'm not sure what the officers name is but that guy is a fantastic asset to the SPD. Consummate professional.</i></p>
<b>Chad McLaughlin #6362</b>	<p><i>For listening to my concerns with a stalking case and putting up with the very insane drama attached to the person involved . Officer McLaughlin was the only person who believed my stalking issue and was quick to be helpful and share what info he could to remedy the situation.</i></p>
<b>Savannah Wood #8406</b>	<p><i>Officer Savannah Wood, goes above and beyond. She brightened my day, all while solving a serious pawn shop crime. She is a compassionate officer with a sparkling personality.</i></p>
<b>Joshua Knight #8577</b>	<p><i>Officer Knight was dispatched to consult with me regarding a recent harassments case I have been dealing with. He listened to me and asked very relevant questions and calmly told me what are the options I can take in order to handle this and how he can help. I requested help to allow me to talk to the perpetrator, which he did. As a result, my stalker of 6 months, promised to not contact me anymore. This was a very emotional moment for me since I was emotionally in deep suffering. Officer Knight (#8577) made my first interaction with the Seattle PD so pleasant, efficient and effective. His communication skills were outstanding and truly is a civil servant who is passionate about helping the Seattle resident. I can't thank Officer Knight enough!</i></p>

<b>Officer Name Not Provided</b>	<i>I was pulled over for expired tabs and the officer was genuinely pleasant. I know you all have tough jobs, but I believe you embody the motto "protect and serve". Every encounter I have had with the Seattle PD in West Seattle has been a good experience. You upped patrols in our area after cars were abandoned on cinder blocks in our garage and responded immediately to some kids throwing things at cars. Thank you for all you do!</i>
<b>Ryan Davis #8522 Christopher Couet #7758 Jamison Maehler #7761 Nathan Biddle #8458 Ruth Medley #8557 Austin Gutwein #8570 Shaun Hilton #7576 Anthony Reynolds #7585 Matthew Atkinson #7632</b>	<i>In the early morning of May 12, Officers Ryan Davis #8522, Christopher Couet #7758 and Jamison Maehler #7761, responded to a residence to investigate a brutal sexual assault that had just occurred where the suspect may have gone into a neighboring apartment. Upon arrival, officers checked the building, observed surveillance footage, broadcast a suspect description and that he likely fled the scene. Officers Nathan Biddle #8458, Ruth Medley #8557 and Austin Gutwein #8570 quickly responded and conducted an area check covering the surrounding streets and near by parks. Simultaneously the investigation and interview continued. Even though the victim appeared to be either in shock, dazed or under the influence, the primary officers were able to calm and comfort the victim enough to determine the location of the incident and the major details of the crime. Sgt. Hilton #7576 was notified and requested an evidence tech respond to process the scene. Officer Anthony Reynolds #7585 from the South Precinct responded and processed multiple pieces of evidence for both DNA and fingerprints. On June 7, SAU Detective Matt Atkinson #7632 wrote and email with an updated documenting how critical it was that the scene was processed. A Sprite bottle that was collected had both the victim's and suspect's fingerprints on it. The subsequent investigation led to the identification and arrest of the suspect with no prior criminal history 17 days after the incident occurred. All parties involved in this incident should be commended for their actions. Specifically, Officer Ryan Davis, Anthony Reynolds, and Detective Matt Atkinson for their quick actions and tenacious investigation. Without the collection of evidence at the time of the incident it is likely that this crime would have remained open.</i>
<b>Officer Name Not Provided</b>	<i>Thank you for the support that you provide the city.</i>
<b>Jabari M. Addae #8355</b>	<i>I had a very scared and distressed stranger in my backyard and reported to non-emergency police in hopes of getting her some help. Officer Addae arrived with his partner and was incredible patient and kind with this woman. It took such a long time to build rapport and trust with her, but because he allowed that time, the woman voluntarily got onto the gurney to head to the hospital. It could have escalated or she could have become very scared or agitated. I commend this police officer for his patience and kindness. This occurred at my home and my young kids were home at the time- we have been talking a lot about what happened and I do feel they were not alarmed by this occurrence because they witnessed your kindness to an individual who very much needed your help. I know police officers deal with mental health cases all too often and I appreciate that Officer Addae treated this person with dignity and respect. Thank you.</i>
<b>David Gordon #5978</b>	<i>Officer David Gordon has been very helpful in keeping the RV/illegal camping/garbage issues enforced in the 107th and Stone Ave N/ Midvale Ave N area. This area has been a trouble spot for illegal activity for some time now, but I know Officer Gordon is doing everything he can to reduce crime in the area.</i>



<b>Kelly VanDyke #7228</b> <b>Maria Eggers #7845</b>	<i>Kelly Vandyke and Maria Eggers are on the parking enforcement team. They've been amazing and check the area on 107th almost daily and are staying on top of the RV issue. This area has been problematic for some time, but since they've been staying on top of it, the street has been the cleanest it's been in a while. Thanks to them for enforcing our parking laws, which reduce crime and garbage left in our neighborhood.</i>
<b>Officer Name Not Provided</b>	<i>I can't remember the name of the police officer, but he was a young gentleman, who drove a navy blue SPD SUV. It was about 10:30am-10:45am Saturday morning around all the construction happening near the Amazon buildings by Westlake Ave. In my confusion with all the construction happening and all the signs saying this and that, I made a couple driving errors. He pulled me over as a result. He could've berated me over my boneheaded mistakes or just been matter-of-fact, but he was super courteous and friendly. Although I can't remember his name for the life of me, I just wanted to give him my thanks for the way he interacted with me. I really appreciate it.</i>
<b>Jamison Maehler #7761</b> <b>Christopher Couet #7758</b> <b>Brandon Gandy #8370</b> <b>Katrina Walter #6355</b>	<i>I wanted to write to recognize the great work of Officers Maehler, Couet, Walter, and Gandy. Yesterday, around shift change, I was involved in a serious struggle with a male wanted for sex offenses and DOC warrants who was armed with a knife. In the struggle, a help the officer was called, and these officers responded. Due to the strong and quick response, I was able to be removed from the situation once the suspect was taken into custody. I sustained a serious injury, and am currently recovering. Each of these officers put their own safety on the line to respond to and help. Officer Walter was valuable at the scene, and got me to move back and get assessed by an EMT on scene.</i>
<b>Curtis Linderman #6100</b>	<i>I wanted to formally commend the actions of Dispatcher Linderman yesterday. I was engaged in a struggle with a wanted, armed and dangerous suspect with a history of violence and a known gang member. During log-on, our mobile MDT did not fully copy my serial and associated portable. Despite that, Linderman was able to assist with my call for help when I stated that I was struggling with a suspect, and was able to get several resources our way. This response and his calm dispatching reduced the injury to myself. Myself and other officers rely on our dispatchers and are a vital resource, especially during difficult times like this one.</i>
<b>Hudson Kang #7759</b>	<i>My daughter was involved in a vehicle crash on Alaskan Way. She was rear-ended while attempting to park. Ofc. H. Kang arrived, policing the crash with professionalism and compassion. This was my daughter first ever crash, and she was very shaken up. Ofc Kang was a calming presence which in turn put my daughter at ease. Thank you Ofc. Kang for your dedication and service to the people.</i>
<b>Officer Name Not Provided</b>	<i>Me and other witnesses called in a man acting erratically and a possible gunshot victim, on Broadway and Howell. Officers and medics responded to the scene within less than a minute and handled the situation incredibly professionally. I am proud of our first-responders in Seattle.</i>
<b>Officer Name Not Provided</b>	<i>She was SO helpful! Suggested I buy a round trip ticket to Sea-Tac airport so I could leave my luggage in baggage storage and come back to the city to sightsee. We had quite a chat! She ended up showing me a photo of her beloved Doberman. Just a note to say thank you to her, as I did what she suggested, and later found Pike Place Market which I enjoyed so much. Thanks Officer! Now back home in Scotland!</i>

---

**Officer Name Not  
Provided**

*I was visiting Seattle with my spouse this weekend, down from Bellingham, and wanted to thank the two Seattle mounted police officers who were at the South Park Community Center doing outreach with the pony Buzz. What a delightful surprise to stumble upon them just around the corner from the venue for our parents' 50th wedding anniversary. We've raised and trained horses and ponies, so of course we had to stop as well to say hello. The two officers were kind, informative, friendly and professional. The pony was delightful and an obvious hit with the neighborhood children and adults. Kudos to SPD and Seattle for ensuring there are men and women representing mounted police and for performing outreach with such an adorable pony. I think we need programs like these more now than ever to help police/community relations, particularly in an era when community policing is viewed as an after thought. Thanks again for contributing to a memorable visit to Seattle. Thanks as well to the two officers and especially Buzz!*

---